



SPRINGFIELD

Hampden County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The City of Springfield is a major urban industrial center of metropolitan status at the junction of regional routes between Boston and New York. The city lies in the Connecticut River Valley, and was originally settled as a private plantation of the Massachusetts Bay colony by William Pynchon in 1636. Commercial trade was the main business of the city from its earliest history, beginning with Pynchon's fur trading with the Indians. Trading led to warehousing and increasing population spurred the establishment of a saw mill. A painful setback in development occurred in 1675, when raids during King Philip's war destroyed 45 of the 60 houses in the settlement, but the community recovered and the building of the county courthouse in 1723 and the U.S. Armory in 1794 boosted development. By 1820, Springfield's population of 3,914 made it the largest community in western Massachusetts. There were mills and cotton duck factories in town, but for 174 years, the armory remained the U.S. Army's primary design and production facility for small arms. This attracted skilled workers, among them inventor Thomas Blanchard who produced a steam motor carriage in 1826 and a steamboat on the river in 1828. David Ames established a paper mill and invented a cylinder paper machine in 1822, becoming the largest producer in the state. The railroad arrived in the 1830's and the city became after 1859, the hub of rail lines. Iron works in Springfield built bridges, trusses, locomotives and railroad coaches. The Civil War brought "intense and concentrated prosperity" to the city, according to historians. The city produced ammunition, uniforms and swords and employment at the armory leaped from 200 to 2600 when the army's other armory at Harper's Ferry was lost to the South.

After the war, when many communities lost their industrial capacity, Springfield shifted to producing luxury and consumer goods such as parlor games, gold chains, ice skates and photo albums. Immigrants in the city came from Ireland, French Canada and Italy to work in diversified production of everything from lawnmowers to beer. The auto industry began in Springfield when Charles and Frank Duryea built the first American car in 1893 and won the first auto race in the country in 1895. The motorcycle industry also began in Springfield in 1902. In 1900 there were over 500 plants in the city, 10% of all such facilities in the entire state. By the middle of the 20th century such companies as Westinghouse and Rolls Royce were located in Springfield, which remains in modern times a business and commercial hub of the area.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the MA Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Agawam and West Springfield on the west, Chicopee and Ludlow on the north, Wilbraham on the east, and Longmeadow and East Longmeadow on the south. Springfield is 89 miles southwest of Boston; 25 miles from Hartford, Connecticut; and 134 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 33.20 sq. miles

Land Area: 32.10 sq. miles

Population: 156,983

Density: 4,890 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Springfield Station)

Normal temperature in January.....26.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....74.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.9"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Springfield South, Springfield North, Hampden, Ludlow

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 787-6000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Mayor-Council

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1636

As a city: 1852

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	59,971		
Democrats	35,726	59.6	%
Republicans	6,370	10.6	%
Other parties	17	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	17,858	29.8	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Springfield city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	152,082	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	152,082	100.0
Male.....	71,802	47.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	41,343	27.2
Female.....	80,280	52.8	Mexican.....	630	0.4
Under 5 years.....	11,606	7.6	Puerto Rican.....	35,251	23.2
5 to 9 years.....	12,945	8.5	Cuban.....	232	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	12,504	8.2	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	5,230	3.4
15 to 19 years.....	12,343	8.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	110,739	72.8
20 to 24 years.....	12,023	7.9	White alone.....	74,291	48.8
25 to 34 years.....	21,246	14.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	21,861	14.4	Total population.....	152,082	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	17,670	11.6	In households.....	146,549	96.4
55 to 59 years.....	6,237	4.1	Householder.....	57,130	37.6
60 to 64 years.....	4,741	3.1	Spouse.....	19,837	13.0
65 to 74 years.....	9,245	6.1	Child.....	49,904	32.8
75 to 84 years.....	7,315	4.8	Own child under 18 years.....	38,066	25.0
85 years and over.....	2,346	1.5	Other relatives.....	10,072	6.6
Median age (years).....	31.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	4,454	2.9
18 years and over.....	108,055	71.1	Nonrelatives.....	9,606	6.3
Male.....	49,367	32.5	Unmarried partner.....	4,374	2.9
Female.....	58,688	38.6	In group quarters.....	5,533	3.6
21 years and over.....	99,852	65.7	Institutionalized population.....	1,648	1.1
62 years and over.....	21,730	14.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	3,885	2.6
65 years and over.....	18,906	12.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	7,307	4.8	Total households.....	57,130	100.0
Female.....	11,599	7.6	Family households (families).....	36,394	63.7
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	19,274	33.7
One race.....	145,933	96.0	Married-couple family.....	19,837	34.7
White.....	85,329	56.1	With own children under 18 years.....	8,675	15.2
Black or African American.....	31,960	21.0	Female householder, no husband present.....	13,616	23.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	569	0.4	With own children under 18 years.....	9,207	16.1
Asian.....	2,916	1.9	Nonfamily households.....	20,736	36.3
Asian Indian.....	206	0.1	Householder living alone.....	17,236	30.2
Chinese.....	404	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	6,532	11.4
Filipino.....	115	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	21,643	37.9
Japanese.....	73	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	13,973	24.5
Korean.....	104	0.1	Average household size.....	2.57	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1,501	1.0	Average family size.....	3.19	(X)
Other Asian ¹	514	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	143	0.1	Total housing units.....	61,172	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	17	-	Occupied housing units.....	57,130	93.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	19	-	Vacant housing units.....	4,042	6.6
Samoan.....	41	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	66	-	occasional use.....	171	0.3
Some other race.....	25,016	16.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	6,149	4.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	6.1	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	57,130	100.0
White.....	89,328	58.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	28,499	49.9
Black or African American.....	34,863	22.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	28,631	50.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1,473	1.0	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.61	(X)
Asian.....	3,468	2.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.52	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	765	0.5			
Some other race.....	28,743	18.9			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 1,069

Conventional Federal: 1,327

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 284

Federal (Section 8): 2,120



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Springfield is located in the Pioneer Valley, known as the crossroads of New England because of its strategic position along the Connecticut River and its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and to Albany, New York. I-91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 5 and I-291, which connects Springfield with the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90). I-91 running N-S passes along the city's western border.

Rail

Passenger rail service is available from Springfield to Boston, Washington D.C, and all other points on the Amtrak network. Conrail and the Springfield Terminal Railway (STRR) offer freight service to Springfield, which is the site of an intermodal facility. Conrail operates a Paper Connection distribution center in the city. Contact number for Conrail: (617) 783-6222; for the STRR, (508) 663-1073.

Bus

Springfield is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), which provides fixed route service, and also paratransit services to the elderly and disabled. Peter Pan Bus Lines provides service to Boston. Vermont Transit Lines provides service to Hartford, Ct., New York City, Brattleboro, VT. Bonanza Bus Lines provides service to Albany, NY, Providence, RI, and Cape Cod.

Other

Westover Metropolitan Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, has 2 asphalt and concrete runways 7,050' and 11,600' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. Peter Pan Bus Lines offers service to Logan Airport and Bradley Field, CT. The Agawam-Springfield Heliport and Seaplane Base is located in neighboring Agawam.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Connecticut Valley Historical Museum

194 State Street

(413) 732-3080

George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum

222 State Street

(413) 733-4214

Museum of Fine Arts

49 Chestnut Street

(413) 732-6092

Naismith Memorial, Basketball Hall of Fame

W. Columbus Avenue

(413) 781-6500

Springfield Armory National Historic Site

1 Armory Square

(413) 734-6477

Springfield Science Museum

236 State Street

(413) 733-1194

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Baystate Medical Center, Inc.
Mercy Hospital
Shriners Hosp Crippled Children
Springfield Municipal Hospital

Long Term Care

Chapin Nursing & Rehab. Center
Chestnut Knoll
Crescent Hill Nursing Center
Ring Nursing Home/East
Ring Nursing Home/Ridgewood
Ring Nursing Home/South
Spruce Manor Nursing Home
Summerfield Pine Manor N.H.

Hospices

Hospice Of Pioneer Valley, Inc

Rest Homes

Beech Manor Rest Home
Blue Spruce Rest Home
Hampden House Retirement Home
Hilltop Rest Home
Hurstdale Rest Home
Ingersoll Grove Rest Home
Maple Hill Rest Home
MSPCC-Family Counseling Center
Primus Mason Manor Rest Home
Saint Luke's Rest Home
Stewart Physical Therapy & Sport

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.